

RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF DELTA, STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-R- _____

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY EFFORT TO REINTRODUCE WOLVES INTO
COLORADO.

WHEREAS, plans to introduce wolves, are periodically considered in Colorado, and sometimes specifically targeted to reintroduction in Western Colorado, and

WHEREAS, Delta County has historically supported the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission resolutions adopted in January 1982, September 1989, and January 13, 2016, opposing wolf reintroductions in Colorado, and

WHEREAS, Colorado is a fast-growing state with a 5.7 million population projected to increase to 8.1 million by 2050 (Colorado State Demography office), and

WHEREAS, Colorado is the number 1 sheep producing state and the 5th cattle producing state in the U.S. and the livestock producers living on the Western Slope will face inevitable conflict with a wolf reintroduction proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Western Slope hosts a robust and fast-growing tourism / outdoor recreation sector that also must co-exist with an introduced endangered species; and

WHEREAS, hunting and guiding/outfitting is an extremely important component of outdoor recreation and a source of income for ranchers; and these industries are reliant on wildlife and public land management plans that analyze the effects of all the wildlife (deer, elk, wild horses. and moose) and livestock (sheep, cattle, domestic horses) that must be managed on Colorado's diverse landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Colorado hunting and fishing brings \$1.8 Billion annually to the state and watchable wildlife enthusiasts bring \$1.2 Billion annually; and

WHEREAS, wolf introduction programs are distinctly more challenging to manage than a wolf migration that occurs naturally, and there are known legal and financial repercussions to endangered species introduction as well as personal threats and risks for tourists, farmers, ranchers, children, and domestic pets; and

WHEREAS, wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains have achieved and exceeded the recovery goals set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; and Club 20 acknowledges wolves have been delisted in Montana and Idaho, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Colorado wildlife management faces added complexities since Colorado population is twice the population of the combined of these three states, and collective sheep and cattle counts are 20% higher which inherently adds costs to wolf management and relatedly adds to costs to Colorado management of other wildlife species, costs to adjust hunting, as well as adding costs to ranchers for livestock management; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board Of County Commissioners of Delta County, Colorado that:

Section 1: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County opposes any effort to reintroduce wolves into Colorado as wolves are already in existence in the region.

Section 2: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County reiterates the Wildlife Management Guiding Principles and specifically the provision that wildlife management is a matter of science and fact, and is the professional obligation and responsibility of the State of Colorado and the CPW, and opposes any ballot measure which would usurp the wildlife management responsibilities of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Section 3: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County opposes any effort to circumvent the Colorado investments in planning by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) work via data analysis unit (DAU) planning, the Resource or Land Management Plans by public land management agencies, the grazing allotment plans, habitat plans, etc.

Section 4: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County supports the 2005 Colorado Wolf Management plan.

Section 5: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County supports the hunting of wolves as a long-term management strategy to maintain wolf populations based on the science determined by CPW (DAU & population wolf targets).

Section 6: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County Supports the multiple-use doctrine and opposes reintroduction plans that would have a peripheral negative effect on important components including timber, energy, tourism, hunting, etc.

Section 7: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County urges conducting an accurate and complete fiscal analysis of ALL the costs of wolf introduction, not only staff costs of planning but to include the costs of long-term wolf management as well as the added costs of managing existing wildlife, and including realistic game damage estimates, costs to assess changes in other wildlife management plans, costs for safety and education programs for both residents and tourists.

Section 8: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County opposes any wolf reintroduction management costs charged to CPW Game Cash funds which have been generated from sports dollars.

Section 9: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County urges all costs to come from the Colorado General Fund since species reintroduction has documented costs in other states that exceed \$1 million annually.

Section 10: The Board of County Commissioners of Delta County opposes all attempts to manage wildlife by ballot which often is a tool dominated by special interests from both inside and outside Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Delta County **requests** that any federal or state wolf management plans include funding to offset the negative impact of wolves on livestock, wildlife management, hunting, and other adversely affected sections of local economics.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

Teri A. Stephenson
Delta County Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF
DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

[SEAL]

By: _____
J. Mark Roeber, Chairman

Don Suppes, Vice Chairman

Mike Lane, Commissioner